

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allah,  
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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## Publisher's Note

In the Name of Allah, the Lord of Grace, the Ever Merciful

For many years, I have been looking for textbooks on the History of Islam for English-speaking students, yet I have found very few. Most did not overcome a common problem: they did not go beyond the era of the Four Rightly-guided Caliphs, may Allah be pleased with them all.

Bearing this in mind, we, at Darussalam, have resolved to present the entire History of Islam to our youth in language that appeals to them, in a simple yet lucid manner. The first four volumes in this series explore Islamic history during the period of the first Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs. Later volumes would be devoted to the



History of Islam, down through the ages to modern times, in sha' Allah.

Our past, present, and future are interconnected and interdependent. Therefore, knowing and understanding our history is not optional; it is essential.

This is the third volume from this series, which deals with the life of Uthman ibn Affan, the third of the Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs. Uthman ibn Affan was the most qualified to become the Caliph during his time; his claim to the caliphate was valid and his caliphate was legitimate. He led the people on the path of truth and ruled with justice, until he was martyred.

We would like to thank the author Maulvi Abdul Aziz, the editor and the designer Mr. Shahzad Ahmed for their diligent efforts in preparing this volume. We hope this work will inspire our youth to form a personal relationship with Uthman ibn Affan, and encourage them to commit their lives sincerely to his mission of serving justice even at the cost of their own lives, which he has left behind as our common heritage.

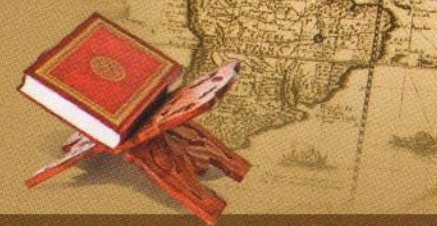
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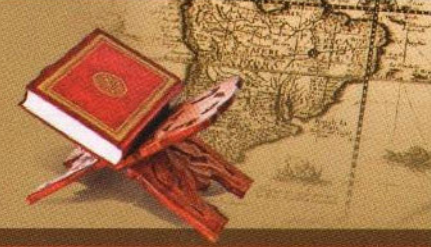


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# Uthmân ibn Affan ؓ

The Third of the  
Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs



# Uthmân ibn Affan ؓ

The Third of the  
Four Rightly-Guided Caliphs

*The*

six-man electoral council set up by Umar ibn Al-Khattab finally selected Uthmân ibn Affan as the third caliph.

## The Early Life of Uthmân ibn Affan

Uthmân was born in At-Tâif in the year 576 CE, six years after the Year of the Elephant. He was about five years younger than the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. His lineage coincides with that of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in their common ancestor Abd Manaf. His mother was Arwa bint Kurayz. Arwa's mother was Umm Hakim, who was the full



sister of Abdullah, the father of the Prophet ﷺ. Uthmān's father was Affan, who died during the *Jahiliyyah* or the Period of Ignorance. Uthmān's mother became Muslim and died during the Caliphate of her son Uthmān, and he was among those who carried her to her grave.

Uthmān's *Kunyah* or nickname during the period of *Jahiliyyah* was Abu Amr. When Ruqayyah, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ bore him a son, he named him Abdullah. So the Muslims called him by the *Kunyah* of Abu Abdullah. Uthmān belonged to the influential Bani Umayyah clan of the Quraysh tribe.



Makkah, At-Ta'if road



## Uthmān was known by the Honorific Title of ***Dhu'n Nurayn***

Uthmān was known by the title *Dhu'n Nurayn*: 'He of the Two Lights'. Why was Uthmān called *Dhu'n Nurayn*? This was because after becoming Muslim, he was first married to Ruqayyah, a daughter of the Prophet ﷺ, and upon her death, he married Umm Kulthum, another daughter of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. For this distinction, he earned the honorific *Dhu'n Nurayn* 'He of the Two Lights'. It is significant to note that no one else was ever married to two daughters of a Prophet, from the time Allah created Adam until the arrival of the Hour, except Uthmān. When Umm Kulthum died, Allah's Messenger ﷺ used to say that he loved Uthmān so dearly that, if he had another daughter remaining, he would have married her to him.



## His Physical Appearance

He

was neither short nor tall. He was soft-skinned, with a long thick beard, big-boned, broad-shouldered, with thick hair on his head. He had a hooked nose, fleshy calves and long arms covered with hair. He had a handsome face. His hair came down below his ears. He was elegant and neat in appearance.

## Uthmân's Family

Uthmân married eight wives in all, all of them after Islam. Two of them were the daughters of the Prophet ﷺ. He had nine sons from four wives. One of them was Abdullah, whose mother was Ruqayyah the daughter of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. He was born two years before the *Hijrah* or emigration. His mother took him

with her when she migrated with her husband Uthmân to Madinah. During his first days in Madinah, a rooster pecked him on the face. Ultimately, he died in 4 AH when he was six years old. Abân was also one of his nine sons. His mother was Umm Amr bint Jundub. He was a leading scholar of *Fiqh* or Islamic Jurisprudence. He was governor of Madinah for seven years during the Caliphate of Abdul Malik ibn Marwan. Abân narrated a number of *Ahâdith* or Traditions including the most popular *Hadith*, which he narrated from Uthmân:

'Whoever says at the beginning of each day and night: In the Name of Allah with whose Name nothing can cause harm on earth or in heaven, and He is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing'; nothing will harm him that day or that night.'

This *Hadith* is recorded by At-Tirmidhi. Abân was regarded as one of the *Fuqaha* or jurists of his time. He died in 105 AH. Uthmân ibn Affan had seven daughters from five wives.



# Uthmân's Marriage

to Ruqayyah, the Daughter  
of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ

*The*

Messenger of Allah ﷺ had given Ruqayyah in marriage to Utbah ibn Abi Lahab; and he had given her sister Umm Kulthum in marriage to Utaybah ibn Abi Lahab. However, when *Sûrah Al-Masad* [*Sûrah* 111 of the Glorious Qur'ân] was revealed, Abu Lahab and his wife Umm Jamil asked their sons to leave the daughters of the Prophet ﷺ, so they separated from them. It is significant to note that the marriage had not been consummated yet. Thus, it came as an honour to the Prophet ﷺ and his household but for the sons of Abu Lahab, it turned out to be a humiliation.

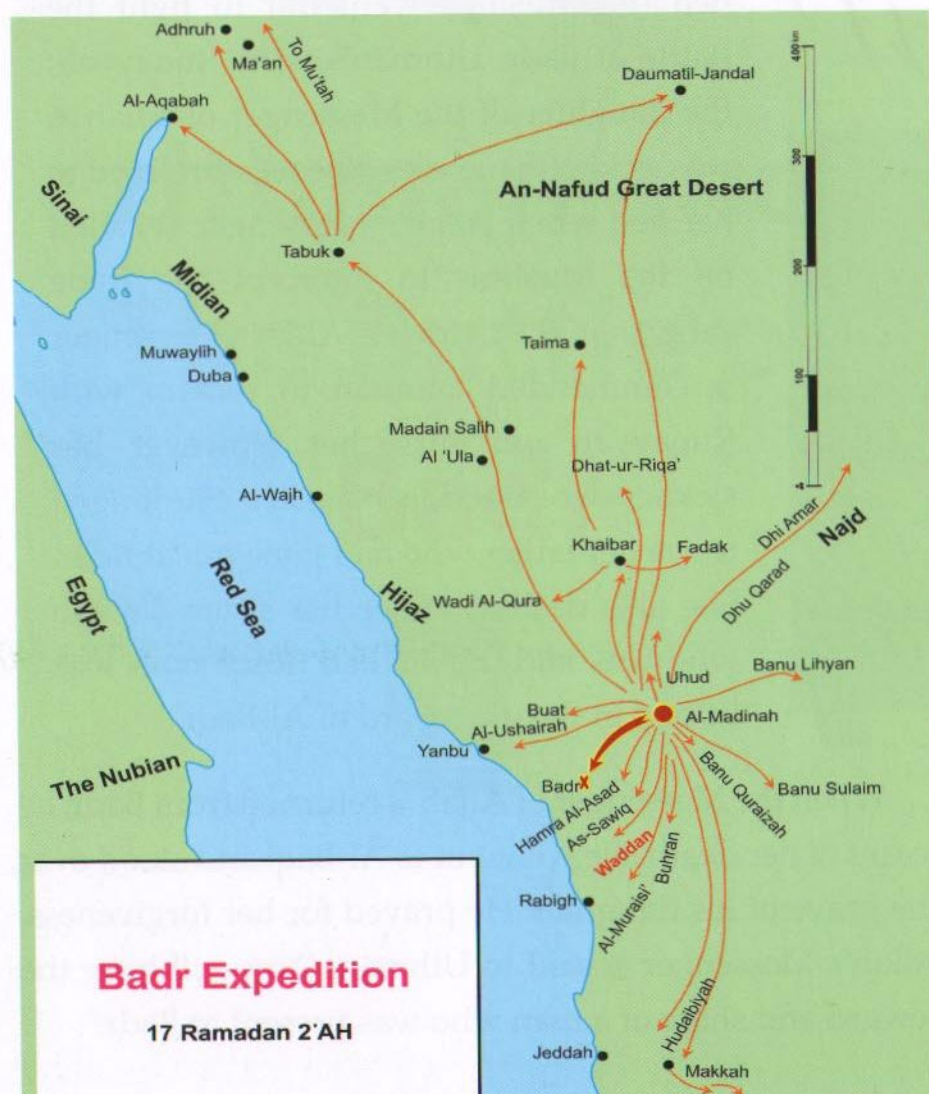
No sooner did Uthmân hear the news of the divorce of Ruqayyah than he was filled with joy and he hastened to propose marriage to her through the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ gave her in marriage to him. Uthmân was one of the most handsome men of Quraysh, and Ruqayyah competed with him in beauty and grace. It was said to her when she was presented to him: 'The best looking couple anyone has ever seen is Ruqayyah and her husband Uthmân.'

Umm Jamil and her husband Abu Lahab thought that by divorcing Ruqayyah and Umm Kulthum they would deal a severe blow to the family of the Prophet ﷺ or at least weaken them. However, Allah chose what was better for Ruqayyah and Umm Kulthum. The marriage caused a great deal of anger and frustration for Umm Jamil and Abu Lahab. They did not achieve anything. Thus, Allah sufficed the household of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ against their evil. And the Command of Allah is a decree determined.





Thus, Uthmân could not participate in the Battle of Badr because of the sickness of his wife Ruqayyah, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Nevertheless, whoever was given a share of the booty of Badr by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was regarded as having been there. So Uthmân was regarded as one of the people of Badr.



# Uthmân and Bay'at Ar-Ridwan

[the Pledge of Goodly Acceptance]

or *Bay'at ash-Shajarah* [the Pledge of the Tree]

*In*

628 CE, towards the end of the sixth year of the *Hijrah* or emigration, Allah's Messenger accompanied by nearly 1400 Companions decided to perform the minor Pilgrimage or *Umrah* to Makkah. For nearly six years, there had been a virtually permanent state of war between the Muslim community and the pagans of Makkah. However, the Prophet ﷺ did not anticipate any conflict on that occasion because he intended to reach Makkah in Dhu'l Qa'dah. It was one of the four 'sacred months' during which all warfare was outlawed, particularly so in and around the Holy City. The Prophet's party set out from Madinah, consisting of 1400 Companions dressed in the pilgrim's garb [*Ihrâm*].

On learning of the Prophet's approach, the Makkans



Uthmân answered, 'Allah has given me a better offer: tenfold for every *Dirham*. Can you give me more?' Uthmân then gave away all the food as charity to the Muslims. Will those who virtually worship money and those who hoard the people's food out of greed pay heed to these great words of Uthmân? Will these words reach their hearts? Will they be kind and merciful to the poor and needy, widows, and orphans who are in distress and stand in dire need of food?

This is an example of the kindness and generosity of Uthmân. He was one of the most merciful of people towards others.

## At the Time of Umar

Umar held Uthmân in high esteem. When the people wanted to ask Umar about something, they would approach him through Uthmân and Abdur Rahman ibn Awf. During the caliphate of Umar ibn Al-Khattab, the status of Uthmân was that of an adviser.

# The Islamic Calendar

Some



reports narrate that Uthmân the one who suggested to Umar that he should start the *Hijri* year with Muharram. After consultation, it was agreed that the Islamic year should start with the Prophet's emigration or *Hijrah*.

This was because the *Hijrah* was the dividing point between truth and falsehood. However, opinions were divided as to which month should be regarded as the beginning of the year. Uthmân pointed out: 'Date the beginning of the year from Muharram because it is a sacred month. Moreover, it is the first of the months in counting and it is when the people return from *Hajj*.' Umar and those present with him approved of Uthmân's opinion and the matter was settled. The starting point of the Islamic calendar was decided once and for all.

رَمَضَانَ RAMADHAN	جُمَادَى الْأُولَى JAMA-DIL-ULA	مُحَرَّرَم MUHARRAM
شَوَّال SHAWWAL	جُمَادَى الثَّانِي JAMAD-UTH-THANI	صَفَر SAFAR
ذُو الْقَعْدَةِ DHUL-QADAH	رَجَب RAJJAB	رَبِيعُ الْأَوَّلِ RABI-UL-AWWAL
ذُو الْحِجَّةِ DHUL-HIJJAH	شَعْبَانَ SHAABAN	رَبِيعُ الثَّانِي RABI-UTH-THANI



Complete the sentences:

1. The Prophet ﷺ did not anticipate any conflict during the minor pilgrimage, because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The people urgently gave allegiance to the Prophet ﷺ because \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Uthmân was well known for being sincere in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. During the caliphate of Umar, Uthmân's status was that of an \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Uthmân's contribution towards the Islamic calendar was that he suggested it start from the month of \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Uthmân unable to participate in the Battle of Badr?
2. Why did Allah's Messenger send Uthmân as his envoy during Hudaibiyyah?
3. Allah's Messenger ﷺ swore allegiance on behalf of Uthmân. What does this say about the status of Uthmân in the eyes of the Prophet ﷺ?
4. Mention the different ways in which Uthmân served Islam with his wealth.

# Uthmân's Appointment as Caliph

## Chapter 3